

DNRC WRD: Replacement Intake Headgates for Deadman's Basin Supply Canal (Wheatland, and Gold Valley Counties).

HB 6

The Deadman's Basin Water Project (DMBWP) is owned By DNRC and operated by the Deadman's Basin Water Users Association. The Project comprises a 76,900 acre-feet, off-stream reservoir; one 11.5-mile-long, 600-cfs supply canal; and two delivery canals; which total 12.5 miles in length.

- DMBWP was constructed as a collaborative effort by the State of Montana Water Conservation Board and federal WPA, was completed in 1941.
- 40,500 shares marketed annually
- 30,000 acres irrigated
- 160 ranch families and 3 small municipalities (Ryegate, Melstone, and Roundup) are directly reliant on the Project's water.

The DMB Supply Canal Headgates incurred damage from 2011 Floods on the Musselshell River

- The 71-year-old intake headgates on the DMB Supply Canal were battered and warped
- Gates are now difficult to operate, and leak excessively.

DMBWP provides multiple benefits:

- DMBWP water supports agriculture, fish and wildlife, and recreation.
- Water released from the Deadman's Basin Reservoir recharges the Musselshell River, which otherwise could run dry during hot, dry summers.

Replacing old headgates with water-efficient, slide-headgates:

- will conserve a minimum of 2975 acre-feet of water in the Musselshell River, year round.
- will restore approximately 1190 acre-feet of water in the river during the hottest 60 days of the summer season,
- will allow more effective water management, leading to reduced diversion time to fill the Deadman's Basin Reservoir

The Deadman's Basin Reservoir provides the public with popular campgrounds and boating facilities. The reservoir is a unique and noted fishery for brown trout and tiger muskies. Waterfowl and big game rely directly or indirectly on the Project's water. With new headgates increasing the efficiency in filling the reservoir, prospects for fishing and more recreational use will improve.

Proposed funding includes the following:

Proposed Project Budget		
Funding Source (grant/loan or cash reserves)	Amount	Committed/ Uncommitted
RRGL Program Grant	\$100,000	Uncommitted
Deadman's Basin Water Users Association	\$170,212	Committed
Deadman's Basin Water Users Association In-kind services	\$6,425	Committed
DNRC-WRD-SWPB In-kind services	\$24,199	Committed
PROJECT TOTAL \$300,836		

Estimated Total Project Cost \$300,900



Aerial Photo – Deadman's Basin Supply Canal Headworks – Diversion and Headgate

